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## THE "RULING PASSION."

Some years ago, in the flag-ship at Bermuda, a seaman was employed in painting some part of that vessel; the paint, which was white-lead, had been mixed with a proportion of rum, as a substitute for spirits of turpentine, as a drying liquid: at the close of the day, when the work had been finished, the man who had performed it, could not resist the temptation of draining the remaining liquid from the pot, and although he must have been sensible of its deleterious quality, as being impregnated with poisonous matter, he drank it off, and very shortly after paid the forfeit of his life for the rash act. On inspection it was found that the stomach had not been affected, but that the brain was in a high state of inflammation. In further illustration of this point, we may here mention a ludicrous anecdote that came within our own knowledge. A foremast man on board his Majesty's ship —, in all requisite qualities a valuable seaman, while lying on his back in his hammock, almost in the last stage of existence from a disease produced by habitual drunkenness, was informed by the surgeon, that unless he refrained from drinking he would certainly die within a month. On the day following the surgeon was going on shore, and as he passed the patient's hammock, the latter thus addressed him: "I say, doctor, as you are going ashore, you may as well order my coffin, for I can't give up the grog."—*United Service Journal*.

## RECOLLECTIONS—SCENES IN CLARE.

(Continued from our 135th Number.)

Having our rods and tackling all complete, we started for the river, which we found in capital order; the water being of that fine beer-coloured tinge, on the clearing of a flood, which generally insures a good reception of our flies among the finny tribe. We fished from about two miles above Cri-bridge down to the sand hills of Mountrivers; and what a glorious day we had of it; such tumbling of trout, and the occasional rolling of a weighty fish, as the sharp whirr-rh-rh of our wheels, and the swift cutting through the water of the line, as the rod bent steadily to the strain, made us sure of a good one. What delight there is in gaffing a fine *peal*,\* as he shows his broad silvery side, exhausted by the skilful turnings to his opposing movements. I had on my foot-link two small *peal-fies*,† especial favourites of mine when the new fish

\* Salmon, salmon-peal, and white trout, force their way into the rivers from the sea, in great numbers, in the latter end of July, August, and September—particularly when the autumnal rains cause a greater flow of water. They are at that time in the highest season—being far more delicate of flavour, and of greater firmness than after their seasoning to the fresh water. They are then termed new fish; their scales being of a most brilliant silvery appearance. They rise very fearlessly and merrily at the artificial fly, taking it with great eagerness. The salmon that remain in the rivers after the spawning season, are termed red salmon, having undergone a considerable change in colour, flavour and appearance; and if detained beyond the usual periods of their return to the sea, become sickly, pine, and die. In April, and the early part of May, the salmon fry descend the rivers in immense shoals to the sea. The skerling of the Usk and Wye, in Monmouthshire, is the samlet or salmon-peal. Ray observes in his work, "Wisdom of God manifested in the Works of the Creation," "that salmon will yearly ascend rivers even to four and five hundred miles, only to cast their spawn, and secure it in banks of sand till the young be hatched and excluded, and then return to sea again." The same instinct prevails, in a singular manner, with the land-crab or violet-crab, (*Cancer ruricola*) which, in South America, inhabits mountainous woods contiguous to the sea. Annually, in prodigious numbers, they migrate to the sea, performing a wearisome journey of some months; and after washing off their spawn, set about on their return home, where they burrow in the mountains. It varies in colour, but is generally of a blackish violet; it is from four to six inches wide, and walks sideways, like the sea-crab. The flesh is considered good, notwithstanding it feeds on the highly poisonous berries of the *Hippomane Manchinella*, manchineel tree, being very fond of them. The wood of this tree is very beautiful, but the saw-dust is so acrid and poisonous, that sawyers and carpenters are forced to work upon the wood with gauze masks.

† Stretcher tied on treble F. hook; tipped with gold tinsel; tailed with guinea-fowl and golden pheasant's feathers; body, of

are in the river; and with them I fished during the morning without changing. The river, for nearly a mile to its mouth, runs through flat marshy meadows, having good deep water, and some excellent stands for a salmon or

orange silk, ribbed with gold twist, and a deep copper-coloured grouse hackle and jay's hackle, laid over together; winged with golden pheasant's feathers, Guinea fowl's, and brown turkey's feathers mixed, and with a few sprigs of the tail feather of the gold pheasant; head finished off with the whirl of a black ostrich feather. Dropper tied on treble F., tipped with gold twist, tailed with dark mallard's feather and blue macaw; body, Deoigh a dhu and coral-coloured mohair mixed, ribbed with gold twist; a deep morone coloured hackle or fiery brown, full under the shoulder, and winged with golden pheasant's feather, dark brown turkey feathers, and blue macaw. Deoigh a dhu or dubh, means fire black, or, termed by the natives, fiery brown; they are very partial to the colour. The coral colour is a kind of deep brick or cinnamon colour, being a most excellent shade either for lake or salmon-fishing. It is dyed with the rock border-moss, (*Parmelia Saxatilis*) found on stones and the bark of trees. It is called, in Irish, coral or coral. It dyes the French colour, Feuilletmort. The navel border-moss (*Parmelia Omphalodes*) dyes wool of a lasting dull crimson or purple colour, termed, in Irish, coreur. The country people use it in Scotland. The celebrated dyeing rock-moss (*Rocella tinctoria*) is a whitish lichen, growing upon rocks in the Canary and Cape Verde Islands, from whence it is imported, being named there Orseille, Orchill. It is found also in Guernsey and Portland Island. It is sold, as manufactured by the Dutch, in a kind of paste, called litmus, (orseille en pate) in square masses of about half an inch in breadth and thickness, being hard and brittle, having the appearance of a violet-coloured earth, with white spots. The thallus, or frond of the lichen, when moistened with a volatile alkali, dyes a beautiful but perishable purple, and gives a fine bloom to other colours. By the addition of a solution of muriate of tin, the colour becomes more permanent, but changes to a scarlet. M. du Fay says, that a solution of orchil in water, applied on cold marble, stains it of a durable and beautiful violet or purplish blue colour, sinking deeply into the marble. It appears to make the marble more brittle. Litmus is used as a test for acids, the paper stained with it becoming red when an acid is present. The original colour is readily restored again by ammoniacal gas. Water absorbs nearly six hundred times its own weight of this gas, combining with it with explosive velocity, forming saturated ammonia. Copper is always detected by ammonia changing the water in which the copper exists to a beautiful blue. Prepared orchil is the substance principally made use of for colouring the spirits of thermometers. The solution of muriate of tin is a valuable mordant in dyeing in giving permanency to colours. Linen or woollen boiled in it, and then placed in a solution of cochineal, becomes a permanent scarlet, but if afterwards put into solution of potash it changes to a permanent crimson. Recent muriate of tin is a very delicate test of mercury.

Tartarindine (*Rinodina tartarea*) found on rocks, and collected by dyers, the rocks being scraped once in five years; when prepared by grinding, and the addition of ammonia and alum, is used to dye woollen yarn or give a bloom to other colours. It is called cudbear, the Lichen tartareus of Linnaeus.

In the transactions of the Royal Geographical Society of London, mention is made of a singular tree, growing in the Cocos or Keeling Isles, (situated in the Indian Ocean) whose root, when grated and infused in a lye of potash, yields a beautiful scarlet dye. Its fruit, when cut, resembles plum-cake, and is used as a pickle.

Ammonia is not only highly useful to the sportsman, chemically, in assisting to give brilliancy and permanency (in dyeing) to his salmon and trout colours, but it is also highly valuable to him medicinally, particularly in those feverish inflammatory attacks and colds, brought on by excessive fatigue and long continuance in damp clothes. Where medical aid cannot immediately be procured, (which at the time I allude to was frequently the case, no medical person being nearer than Ennis or Kildrush, the former being seventeen, the latter twelve miles distant) I have found very heavy colds, accompanied with severe shivering fits, when attended to early, quickly yield to the use of the solution of acetate of ammonia, (aqua acetatis ammoniac) known by the old name of spirit of mindererus—the sufferer being kept very warm, and taking half an ounce of the solution in a warm drink, every two or three hours, until a sensible perspiration is produced. Its effect proves more powerfully sudorific when preceded by an emetic—dissolving two grains of Tartarized antimony in four ounces of distilled water, and two table-spoonsful of the mixture being taken every half hour, until vomiting is caused.

peal. Its banks are lined with the bull-rush,\* (*Scirpus Lacustris*) and the yellow iris (*Iris pseudo-acorus*†):

"Where waves the bulrush as the waters glide,  
And yellow flag-flowers deck the sunny side."

Along the coast here, the sands blown in by the western winds, present a high range of hills, and being made firm by the growth of a variety of grasses and plants, form an impenetrable barrier to the encroachments of the ever rolling and restless Atlantic. Here the *Arundo Arenaria*,† with its creeping binding roots, is an invaluable guardian, displaying its rigid culm with long, narrow, and light glaucous green leaves. The *Carex Arenaria*, and the common birds-foot trefoil (*Lotus Corniculatus*)§ are also

As a diaphoretic, it is perfectly safe, not being attended with the risk in serious inflammatory cases, where other more powerful sudorifics might increase the mischief. Externally, when diluted with rose-water; it forms a good collyrium for weak and slightly inflamed eyes; and, as a lotion, for sprains, bruises, and superficial inflammation. The solution of acetate of ammonia can be simply prepared by taking one ounce of the sub-carbonate of ammonia, and two pints of diluted acetic acid, or as much as may be sufficient; add the acid to the ammonia until it ceases to effervesce, or till the mixture has no effect in changing the colour of Litmus paper. In this process the ammonia of the sub-carbonate is disengaged, and passes over to the acetic acid, forming acetate of ammonia, which remains in solution, while the carbonic acid escapes. Twenty-five drops of the acetate of ammonia, in a glass of any sweetened liquid, has been employed to relieve headaches caused by hard drinking, and even to dissipate drunkenness.

It is far from my intention to arrogate any medical opinion, but merely to state that such simple remedies as I have mentioned, have often proved very serviceable in an early stage of severe cold, where distance and great loss of time prevented the opportunity of getting a regular practitioner. The only person at that time in the country was poor Dr. H—, a wretched itinerant quack. The poor man, who in disposition was as harmless as he was unfortunate, terminated a miserable career, after visiting a patient, being found dead on the road side, from the effects of excessive intoxication.

\* Bull-rushes, the stalks growing sometimes eight feet high, and being at the base as thick as a finger, constitute a considerable article of trade in England, being used for matting and making the bottoms of chairs. Coopers employ them for filling up spaces between the seams of casks.

† *Iris palustris*, marsh fleur-de-luce. Roots are very acrid when fresh, and warm when dry, bearing very nearly the same medicinal properties as the galangale root (*Kaempferia*) the dried root of which is brought from China; but it is not now noticed in the British Pharmacopœias. In the Paris Codex it is termed *maranta galanga*. It is an aromatic and acrid root, hot, stimulant, and also emetic. It is medicinally used in dyspepsia, and the root chewed in paralysis of the tongue.

‡ *Arundo Arenaria*, also *Ammophila Arundinacea*, (common sea-reed) *Ammophila* being derived from *αμμος*, sand, and *ἄρα*, a lover. It is extensively employed in Norfolk in preserving the banks of sand from the inroads of the sea, and called there sand marram (*Psamma Arenaria*.) It is also planted on the north coast at Liverpool for the same purpose. Queen Elizabeth was so sensible of its importance, that she prohibited the extirpation of it. In Holland the Dutch fortify their sandy barriers by the propagation of this reed and the upright sea-lime-grass (*Elymus Arenarius*). That industrious nation have much to contend with to keep their sea-boundaries secure from the breaking in of the sea, and the destructive ravages of the teredo navalis—(ship-worm)—the teredines in vast numbers working their way into the piles that support the dikes, and threatening their total demolition, when the precaution of sheathing them with copper, or a composition of tar and glass, has been neglected. Although the teredo is a native of equatorial seas, yet, by adhering to the bottom of ships, it has become quite naturalized in Holland, as also in England.

Mr. Lyell states that one of the most memorable irruptions of the sea in Holland occurred in 1421, where the tide, pouring into the mouth of the united Meuse and Waal, burst through a dam, in the district named *Berge-Veld*, and overflowed twenty-two villages, forming that large sheet of water called the *Bies Bosch*. No vestige even of the ruin of these places could ever afterwards be seen, but a small portion of the new bay became filled up and formed an island.—*Principles of Geology*.

§ Horned birds-foot trefoil and milk-vetch. Herb in moist meadows, makes excellent hay; flowers turn green in drying, like those of indigo.

highly useful—the latter having decumbent stems growing to a great length, and their strong roots penetrating deeply into the sand. The pretty gold-coloured flowers of the *Lotus Corniculatus*, and its thickly set green leaves, retain the finest verdure in the hottest and driest summers. This plant and the white clover (*Trifolium repens*)\* grow very extensively on these sand-hills, and form the principal food of the innumerable rabbits that burrow there. There are also many valuable agricultural grasses, &c., growing spontaneously; such as the perennial darnel or rye-grass, (*Lolium perenne*)† crested dog's-tail-grass, (*Cynosurus Cristatus*)‡ called also thraneens or trathnin, meadow soft grass, (*Holcus lanatus*)§ common purple trefoil or red clover, (*Trifolium pratense*) and the black medick or nonsuch (*Medicago lupulina*). The common ragwort or rag-weed, (*Senecio Jacobœa*)|| grows in great abundance, having stems three feet in height, crowned with large golden yellow flowers in corymbs, from which it is named, by the peasants, Buachail an buidhe, the boy with the yellow head. Numerous plants of the yellow or ladies' bed-straw, (*Galium verum*)¶ Yarrow, (*Achillea Millefolium*)\*\* sea-holly, (*Eryngium maritimum*)†† purple sea-rocket, (*Cakile maritima*)‡‡ and the sea-side gromwell, (*Lithospermum maritimum*)§§ are growing about the hills and on the shore. That pretty little flower, the pansy violet or heart's-ease, (*Viola tricolor*) enlivens the sandy fields with its brilliant colours, in conjunction with the scarlet pimpernel or poor man's weatherglass (*Anagallis Arvensis*)||| The pansy bears a variety of names, from a fancied resemblance in the throat of the flower: such as,

\* The white clover (*Trifolium repens*) is the seamar bhan, seamrog or shamrock.

† *Lolium perenne* is an excellent grass for agriculturists. It may be sown with a crop of oats and red clover; the clover and the *lolium* will produce a plentiful crop the following season, forming a good fodder for cattle. Meadow fox-tail grass (*alopecurus pratensis*) is the best early grass for farmers.—Mr. J. T. Mackay.

‡ Found to be one of the best grasses for making ladies' bonnets.—J. T. M.

§ A good grass for low damp grounds.—J. T. Mackay.

|| *S. Jacobœa*, dyes wool a deep green, and alummum wool, yellow.

¶ The flowers of the *Galium verum*, or true cheese-rennet, smell like honey—are antispasmodic, and, with alum, dye a fine yellow. They coagulate milk when boiled in it. In Scotland the Highlanders employ the plant with the leaves of the stinging nettle, (*urtica dioica*) and a little salt, as a rennet to curdle milk. The root is dark green; boiled in a solution of alum it dyes a fine red.

\*\* Common yarrow or milfoil, with small cream-coloured or rose-coloured flowers, yielding an essential oil; infusion of the flowering plant is stimulant and stomachic.

†† The roots are well tasted when candied, and act as a stimulating tonic.

‡‡ *Bunias Cakile* of Linnaeus.

§§ *Pulmonaria maritima* of Linnaeus—growing with numerous procumbent branched stems, bearing flowers in racemes, of a beautiful purplish blue. It is also named sea mertens (*Mertensia Maritima*) and sea bugloss. The whole plant is very glaucous, narcotic; and it has been remarked that the flavour resembles that of oysters.

||| A pretty native annual, having small brilliant scarlet flowers, with a purplish pink eye in the centre of each corolla—called poor man's weatherglass, because the corollas never expand in rainy weather or when the air is moist:

"The hollow winds begin to blow,

The clouds look black, the glass is low;

Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel.—Dr. JENNER.

Collected before the flowers expand, the powder has been prescribed in doses of one scruple in epilepsy and mania. It is narcotico-acrid poison. The smaller kind of birds seek the seed with great avidity. *Anagallis fruticosa*, *lauffolia*, *monelli*, and *linifolia*, are pretty little biennials, and are exceedingly ornamental in a conservatory. They are of easy culture, and increase in peat-sand and vegetable mould.

Curtis says, that trefoil, wood-sorrel, mountain ebony, wild senna, African marigold, &c., &c., are so regular in folding up their leaves before rainy weather, that they seem to have a kind of instinct or foresight similar to that of ants,

love in idleness; call me to you; kiss me ere I rise; and from its colours, three faces under a hood, and herb-Trinity. The word pansy is a corruption of the word pensée, thought; In Hamlet, Ophelia says—

“And there are Pansies, that's for thoughts.”

In the French floral language this favourite flower means, “think of me,” *pensez à moi*. In the fields near the river, coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)\* is met with, and a variety of other valuable and useful plants. We finished our day in famous style, each of us having a weighty bag of good white trout, from one to three pounds each, and a few salmon peal, nearly five pounds each. Our friend Jemmy Aymes, at the cross roads, supplied us with a sup of comfort, and we gaily trudged our way home, anticipating, for the next, a treat with the salmon in Dunbeg.† Again we were on the road to Dunbeg, with our rods, but we were sadly disappointed; the day brightened, and was cloudless, and the wind not lying fair on the river, but one poor salmon rewarded our toil, although numbers splashing in mockery at our flies, gave us an invitation for another day. The Dunbeg river, or Cooraclare, as it is frequently called, is rather deep, and in some parts of good breadth, having excellent salmon-stands the whole run from Ballydoneen-bridge, on the Ennis and Kilrush road, down to its mouth. It rises in Mount Callen, and forms in its course Lough Dulogh or Dhuloc, the black lake, in the barony of Ibrickan, and continuing a run of near sixteen miles, passing by the village of Cooraclare,‡ disembogues itself into the Atlantic at Dunbeg. Dunbeg bay is unsafe for vessels or boats of any size, from the numerous rocks which bar its entrance. At the river's mouth are the castles of Dunmor and Dunbeag. They are situated on the south side of the creek, and distant from each other about half a mile: Dunmor, or the big fortress, being at the entrance on the sea-shore and Dunbeag, or the little fortress, on a rising ground overlooking the creek, and close to the village.

Underneath the Castle of Dunmor's extend several caverns, and the tide from the Atlantic forcing a passage into them, occasions at times most awful and unearthly sounds. Tradition hands down that one of its possessors was remarkable for his treachery and cruelty, it being his practice to lower his guests and captives through trap-doors into the caverns or vaults, where they were destroyed on the flowing of the tide. The occasional roarings of the water the superstitious imagined to be the moanings of the spirits of the murdered victims—

“Beneath, terrific caverns gave

Dark welcome to each stormy wave

\* Common coltsfoot. The leaves and flowers are considered of great efficacy as a demulcent and expectorant in coughs. The dried leaves, with powdered asarum, (*Asarabacca*) form the basis of cephalic snuffs, and are frequently smoked like tobacco, for the relief of asthma. A strong decoction has been found serviceable in scrofulous cases: the down, on the under surface of the leaves, is used as taser.

The *tussilago fragrans*, a frame perennial from Italy, is a very desirable plant for a green house, being much valued for the delightful fragrance of its flowers during the winter season. It grows in any soil—increases like the common *tussilago*—and one plant will perfume the whole room.

† Dunbeg river is not now so famous for its salmon; for, since the time alluded to here, a kind of weir has been run entirely across it, near the village, which prevents the greater number of salmon from getting up in the proper season, unless very heavy floods come at the time. Of late there has been no spirited fly-fisher in that part of the country to compel the owners of the weir to adhere to the fishery regulations, viz.—to keep a free passage open from Saturday night until Monday morning. Mr. James O'Gorman was the best and the most fair fly-fisher in that part of the country; he has killed great numbers of salmon, and some were very weighty fish.

‡ Deriving its name from the castle situated on the hill beside the village. It means the Court of Clare, having belonged to the Lord Clare, who fled from the country after the battle of Aughrim.

§ Dunmor and Dunbeag. Dunmor Castle, Mr. Dutton states, was inhabited at the time he made his survey of Clare; but when I visited those castles, their only tenants were wild pigeons, starlings, and a solitary owl. The weather being exceedingly calm, I had not the opportunity of witnessing those awful sounds so much spoken of.

That dash'd, like midnight revellers, in;  
And such the strange, mysterious din,  
At times throughout those caverns roll'd;  
And such the fearful wonders told  
Of restless sprites, imprisoned there.”

A range of sand hills along the coast present a similar appearance to those at Mount Rivers.

Time passed rapidly on; the fishing season had gone by; our rods were laid aside for our guns; and mountain, bog, and shore resounded with their sharp reports:

“For winter came; the wind was his whip:

One choppy finger was on his lip:

He had torn the cataracts from the hills,

And they clank'd at his girdle like manacles.”†

Without these amusements the dreary winter months would be insupportably dull. In that part of the country grouse and partridge are scarce; but hares, snipe, and all kinds of wild fowl and sea-birds are in abundance. The winter seasons generally are wet; and very frequently tremendous gales of wind from the west and north-west prevail, lasting for several days with unabated violence:

“Oh, wild west wind! thou

For whose path the Atlantic's level powers

Cleave themselves into chasms; while far below

The sea-blooms and the oozy woods, which wear

The sapless foliage of the ocean, know

Thy voice, and suddenly grow gray with fear,

And tremble and despoil themselves.”‡

To the admirers of the sublime and terrible, a walk along the coast, or standing on the verge of some high cliff, would excite in them feelings of the deepest sense of their own insignificance, and of the awful power of the Almighty and all-wise Ruler of the universe, when they behold the mountainous billows of the Atlantic Ocean rolling in, and its surges breaking on the beach, lashing the rocks with terrific roarings, and oftentimes sending its spray far over cliffs several hundred feet in height. Ah! well might they then exclaim, in the sublime language of Pope,

“Not God alone in the still calm we find,

He mounts the storm, and rides upon the wind.”

Or as Thompson, in his *Winter*, beautifully expresses,

“Till Nature's King, who oft,

Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone;

And, on the wings of the careering winds,

Walks dreadfully serene.”

\* Lalla Rookh—Fire worshippers.

† Shelley.

‡ Shelly's Ode to the West Wind.

§ The following vivid and interesting accounts from Dr. Hibbert's description of the Shetland Islands, published in Edinburgh in 1822, are extremely applicable here:

“These Isles are exposed continually to the uncontrollable violence of the Atlantic, for no land intervenes between their western shores and America. The prevalence, therefore, of strong westerly gales causes the waves to be sometimes driven in with irresistible force upon the coast, while there is also a current setting from the north. The spray of the sea aids the decomposition of the rocks, and prepares them to be breached by the mechanical force of the waves. Steep cliffs are hollowed out into deep caves and lofty arches; and almost every promontory ends in a clustre of rocks, imitating the forms of columns, pinnacles and obelisks.”

Again he observes, “But the most sublime scene is where a mural pile of porphyry, escaping the process of disintegration that is devastating the coast, appears to have been left as a sort of rampart against the inroads of the ocean: the Atlantic, when provoked by wintry gales, batters against it with all the force of real artillery; the waves having, in their repeated assaults, forced themselves an entrance. This breach, named the Grind of the Navir, is widened every winter by the overwhelming surge that, finding a passage through it, separates large stones from its side, and forces them to a distance of no less than one hundred and eighty feet. In two or three spots, the fragments which have been detached are brought together in immense heaps, that appear as an accumulation of cubical masses, the product of some quarry.”

The mean depth of the Atlantic Ocean is calculated to be about three miles. Young's Nat. Phil. Lect. xlvii.

Although the stupendous cliffs along the coast of Clare appear a formidable ocean boundary, some being elevated to four hundred and even to six hundred feet, and frowning with haughty grandeur on their furious opponent; yet the Atlantic is making serious inroads, and, with the storms of each winter season, huge masses are crumbled and swept away, while the sand-banks, united in the close embraces of the *Ammophila Arundinacea*, put to defiance its wildest attacks, and form an impassable limit.

Frost is sometimes very severe, and at times attended with heavy falls of snow, but never lasting long, so much humidity existing in the air from the vicinity of the sea. I remember being out one very cold freezing day in January with Lanty, on the salt marsh of Annagieragh, close to the lake, and stealing nearly waist deep in snow and water to get within shot of some shell-drakes, and being almost blinded with the sharpness of a thick, driving sleet, that a flock of wild swans dashed into the water, about sixty yards from where I was lying. How my heart beat for the prize, as, with deadly aim, I levelled my long duck-gun; but the invaluable improvement of detonating locks was not then known in that part of the country. I had the extreme mortification, after snapping two or three times, to see them majestically rise, and skim far away to some mountain lake. I have since often thought of the fatigue, the wet, the cold, that I have endured for mere amusement; and were I compelled to have gone through such hardships in the earning of a livelihood, I doubtless would have complained of the severity of my destiny.

[Our intelligent correspondent has given a list of Birds, among which are many rare and beautiful water-fowl, which he says are not seen in other parts of Ireland; and which he either shot or met with along the coast of Clare, and particularly in parts of the Shannon near its mouth, and about the caves of Ballybunian, on the Kerry side. To this list he has appended many scientific observations and remarks, which, we have no doubt, will be esteemed important by persons who take an interest in such studies. The entire will appear in a volume about to be published.]

\* Captain Portlock, in his valuable paper on the study of Geological Phenomena in Ireland, read before the Dublin Geological Society, on the 11th of April, 1830, in alluding to the disintegration or wearing down of the surface of the earth by atmospheric agents, and of the powers of atmospheric waters in eroding mountain rocks, provided their substance be loose and porous; continues—"Leaving atmospheric agents, we meet another (powerful to destroy) in the ocean; and, after reading all the instances of its ravages collected together by Mr. Lyell, we might almost tremble for the safety of Ireland. But, if we resist alarm, we may indulge curiosity, and study with effect the sublime cliffs of Clare, or those equally picturesque of Donegal, exposed as they both are to the full sweep of the western ocean."

Webster, in his Geological Transactions, mentions many serious occurrences of the encroachments of the sea on the south coast of England, and of the wearing away of the cliffs. A portion of the promontory of Beachy Head was so undermined, that a mass of chalk, three hundred feet in length, and seventy to eighty feet in breadth, fell, in the year 1813, with a tremendous crash: similar slips have since been frequent.

The wild majestic grandeur of the cliffs of Clare is indeed sublime; their lofty range extending from Loophead to Baltard, with *Caoi na Faoileann* and *Cathoir Crohane* overtowering all—

"like giants stand,  
To sentinel enchanted land."

How great is the effect produced upon the mind, when standing upon their dizzying summits, with the boundless mass of the waters of the Atlantic before us, and here and there the fishing eagle, (sole lord of those aerial heights) sailing round in easy curving lines, with all the majesty of his species; and now, with a loud rushing sound, plunging for its prey into the sea with the certainty of a rifle. In the language of Blair, "It produces a sort of internal elevation and expansion; it raises the mind much above its ordinary state; and fills it with a degree of wonder and astonishment which it cannot well express."

The cliffs of *Caoi na Faoileann*, or sea-gull's house or retreat, are four hundred and sixty feet in height; those of *Moir* or *Moghur*, at the Hagshead, exceed six hundred feet—one particular pinnacle being one hundred and twenty fathoms.

Our kind friend has also added to the present portion of his article on Clare, with which he has so obligingly favoured us, what by botanists, we have no doubt would be esteemed a very valuable appendix, a scientific description of most of the grasses and plants to be met with in that district. As the general class of our readers cannot be considered sufficiently scientific to enjoy this description of reading, we have preferred allowing them to appear in the volume to which we have referred, rather than introduce them into our columns. We have great pleasure, however, in extracting the following well-merited meed of praise to Mr. Mackay, Botanical Demonstrator, and Lecturer on Botany and Horticulture in the Botanic Garden of Trinity College; freeing us from the charge made by Mr. Lyell, that scarce any thing is known of the natural history and botany of this country.]

"There is a legend that St. Patrick expelled all reptiles from Ireland; and certain it is that none of the three species of snakes common in England, nor the toad, have been observed there by naturalists. They have our common frog, and our water newt, and, according to Ray, the green lizard. Schultes, the botanist, observed, a few years since, in his tour in England, that there were two great islands in Europe of which the flora's were unknown—Sardinia and Ireland; he might, perhaps, have added the fauna\* of the latter country.† The latter is but too true; but, I am happy to add, that Mr. or Herr Schultes, or whatever he may be, was most ably answered‡ and silenced by that indefatigable and scientific botanist, J. T. Mackay, Esq., Curator of Trinity College Botanic Garden, Dublin. To this gentleman I feel deeply indebted for the exceeding delight and pleasure I have derived from attending to his admirable botanical demonstrations; and for the much valuable information he at all times most willingly and anxiously gave; and I am proud to have the opportunity of announcing that he has nearly completed and will shortly give to the public a "Flora Hibernica," embracing all the phænogamous and cryptogamous§ plants of this country, with their correct habitats. From so acute an observer, and from one of such long known experience; a publication of the kind will not only be invaluable to all interested in the delightful science of botany, but it will also rank high as a national work. Indeed, Mr. Mackay's catalogue, published in 1825, contains the only correct habitats of our indigenous plants, that has yet appeared. In regard to that part of the quotation from Mr. Lyell, "they have our common frog," it brings to my mind an amusing article given by Mr. O'Reilly in his excellent Irish Dictionary—the word frog is the original Irish, and described by him as "an animal not found in Ireland before the reign of William the Third of England, whose Dutch troops first introduced it amongst us."

\* Fauna. The various kinds of animals, &c., peculiar to a country constitute its fauna, as the various kinds of plants constitute its flora. The term is derived from the fauni, or rural deities in Roman Mythology.

† Lyell's Principles of Geology, 3d vol. page 451, 3d Edition, 1834.

‡ Loudon's Magazine of Gardening, for April, 1831.

§ Cryptogamous, a name applied to a class of plants, such as ferns, mosses, sea-weeds, and fungi; in which the fructification or organs of reproduction are concealed, derived from *κρυπτος*, kryptos, concealed, and *γάμος*, gamos, marriage.

Mr. Mackay possesses a rich collection of Cryptogamous plants.

Phænogamous, are the flowering plants whose secular organs are distinct and visible.

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